

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
11 April 2002 (11.04.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 02/29672 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/60**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US01/30699**
- (22) International Filing Date: **3 October 2001 (03.10.2001)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:  
**09/678,387**      **3 October 2000 (03.10.2000)**      **US**
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**  
— *with declaration under Article 17(2)(a); without abstract; title not checked by the International Searching Authority*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



**WO 02/29672 A2**

(54) Title: **REVERSE AUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM**

(57) Abstract:

## REVERSE AUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 5 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to on-line auctions. In particular, this invention relates to methods and systems to provide on-line business-to-business procurement services via the Internet, featuring the posting of buyer requirements for services and products  
10 and matching of supplier bids for fulfillment of buyer requirements.

#### Description of Related Art

Current on-line airline ticket auctions provide individual buyers with the opportunity to bid on an airline ticket. Generally the buyer specifies the travel dates,  
15 the departure and arrival cities, and the maximum amount of money that the buyer is willing to pay per ticket. The specified information is forwarded by the on-line auction provider to several airlines or agents in an attempt to obtain the tickets at the desired price.

20 The buyer then receives a notification from the on-line auction provider indicating whether the buyer's bid has been accepted by an airline or not. In current on-line auctions the buyer is not able to directly negotiate a price with the airline. Further, the current on-line auction providers are not adequate for satisfying the needs of corporate buyers that are interested in buying a large number of tickets. This is so  
25 because in current on-line auctions the airline tickets are non-transferable. Further, no discounts can be negotiated with an airline when a large number of tickets are bought at once by a single buyer. Still further, the only relevant information taken into

account as part of the determination of accepting bids is the price of a ticket.

Therefore, there is a need in the art for auction methods and systems that present to a corporate buyer and allows a seller to introduce information other than price information for a service or product as part of an auction process, where the buyer and  
5 the seller are able to directly negotiate an agreement.

### **SUMMARY AND OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION**

On-line reverse auction methods and systems are disclosed. Specifically, such methods and systems enable a buyer interested in purchasing a product or service to  
10 create a request for proposals and to upload it in a web site for access by suppliers. The suppliers submit bids by uploading them into the web site in reply to the request for proposals. The buyer as well as the suppliers may view all the bids submitted.

The buyer may review bid details for bids submitted in reply to the request for proposals while a supplier may review bid details for his or her bid submitted. The  
15 bid details may be reviewed by accessing the web site. Once a bid has been accepted by the buyer or a counter offer is accepted by the seller, a confirmation of the acceptance is sent to the buyer and to the supplier that submitted the accepted bid.

It is an object of the present invention to provide methods and systems that present to a corporate buyer and allow a seller to introduce information other than price information for a service or product as part of an auction process, where the buyer and the seller are able to directly negotiate an agreement. Further, it is another object of the present invention to provide buyers and sellers with the ability to execute a deal or commitment in conducting business with each other. Further, it is another object of the present invention to achieve the objects stated above by enabling both buyers and sellers to negotiate agreements via the Internet. Still further, it is another object of the present invention to post in a web site details of requests for proposals submitted by buyers and of bids submitted by sellers in order to facilitate the negotiating process.

With these and other objects, advantages and features of the invention that may become hereinafter apparent, the nature of the invention may be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description of the invention, the appended claims and to the several drawings attached herein.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The preferred embodiments of this invention will be described in detail, with reference to the following figures, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a drawing of a flowchart of a first method of the present invention;

5        FIGS. 2A-2C are drawings of a user interface for entering the user's registration information in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

10       FIGS. 3A-3D are drawings of a user interface for entering the buyer's travel policy information in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a drawing of a user interface for uploading travel history data into a web site in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIGS. 5A-5C are drawings of a user interface for creating a request for proposals in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

15       FIG. 6 is a drawing of a display of requests for proposals that are open for bids and the corresponding bids in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a drawing of the details of bids submitted in reply to a request for proposals in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

20       FIG. 8 is a drawing of a user interface for responding to a bid in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a drawing of a user interface for searching for a request for proposals in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a drawing of a display of the results from the search for requests for proposals in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a drawing of a display of buyer history being accessed by a supplier in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

5        FIG. 12 is a drawing of a display of requests for proposals submitted by a buyer in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a drawing of the transactions between buyers and suppliers in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention.

10       FIG. 14 is a drawing of a user interface for entering bids in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention;

FIGS. 15A-15B are drawings of a display of the bids submitted by a supplier in reply to several requests for proposals in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention; and

15       FIG. 16 is a drawing of a system for implementing a reverse auctioning method in accordance with the embodiments and methods of the present invention.

These and other features and advantages of this invention are described in or are apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Referring now to the drawings in which like elements are shown by like reference numerals, FIG. 16 shows a reverse auctioning system 1600 according to one embodiment of the present invention. The system may include personal computers used by buyers (i.e., buyer PCs 1601-1603), personal computers used by suppliers (i.e., supplier PCs 1604-1606), at least one exchange server 1610, a collection of web and database servers 1611, and a network (i.e., Internet 1612) that interconnects the PCs 1601-1606 and the servers 1610-1611.

The buyer personal computers 1601-1603 and the supplier personal computers 1604-1606 may be stand-alone personal computers. Alternatively, the personal computers 1601-1603 may be interconnected via the buyer company's intranet. Similarly, the supplier personal computers 1604-1606 may be interconnected via the supplier company's intranet.

In one embodiment of the present invention, a buyer may be a corporation interested in buying airline tickets from a supplier (e.g., an airline). A buyer may also be represented by a travel agency.

Although the functions performed by server 1610, web server 1611a, and database server 1611b may be implemented in a single server unit, they are each illustrated separately to emphasize their respective functionality. The server 1610 may include a computer with the capability to process data at high speed. The web and database servers 1611a-b may include computers equipped with software to run a web site and a database system. For example, the web server 1611a may be a Windows NT server and may include software such as Microsoft Internet Information Services, used for delivering static html pages generated to support the functionality

of the user-interfaces shown below and for modeling data maintained in the database server 1611b. The web server 1611a may also include software responsible for replication of data between the database 1611b and server 1610. The database server 1611b may be implemented by running Oracle's SQL server 7.0 in a separate

5 Windows NT server.

In the system 1600, the web server 1611a serve as a front-end server to collect from and transmit data to the buyer PCs 1601-1603 and the supplier PCs via the Internet 1612. The data may be stored in the database servers 1611b.

The exchange server 1610 may be connected to the web and database servers  
10 1611a-b via the Internet 1612. The exchange server 1610 may access data from the web and database servers 1611a-b. Using the accessed data, the exchange server 1610 performs functions such as searching for requests for proposals based on criteria entered by suppliers, ranking bids, etc.

FIG. 13 illustrates a high level diagram of potential transactions that can take  
15 place as part of the on-line auction. In the figure, each buyer 1302 submits one RFP. On the other hand, each supplier 1306 may respond to more than one RFP. A more realistic example, though not illustrated, is one in which each buyer submits more than one RFP and each seller bids on any of the submitted RFPs.

FIG. 1 illustrates a flowchart of a method for conducting an on-line reverse  
20 auction according to one embodiment of the present invention. Step 101 includes the on-line registration of a buyer and at least one supplier or seller. The information entered by either a buyer or a seller as part of the on-line registration 101 is described in the discussion of FIG. 2 below.



In step 102 the buyer may enter information about the company as well as historical and projected travel information. The information entered by the buyer as part of step 102 is described in the discussion of FIGS. 3A and 3B below.

5 In step 103 a buyer creates a request for proposals (RFPs) that may be based on historical data. The historical data may be entered as part of the step 102 or may be automatically created by keeping a record of the buyer's travel preferences over time. The RFP may include information such as travel dates, departure and arrival airports, desired class of service, number of seats, etc., that would allow a supplier searching for an RFP to judge whether the RFP is of interest and to submit a bid in  
10 reply to the RFP (step 104).

For an RFP that remains open (e.g., a buyer has not accepted an offer submitted in reply to the RFP), the submitted bids may be viewed by the buyer and the sellers that have submitted bids (step 105). That is, the bidding activity may be viewed by accessing the exchange server 1610 of FIG. 16.

15 Step 106 may include the viewing of details for bids submitted in reply to a particular RFP. The display of bid details is described in the discussion of FIG. 7 below.

Step 107 includes actions that may be taken by a buyer as part of the reverse auction. These may include withdrawing the RFP, declining a bid, accepting a bid, or  
20 making a counter-offer.

Step 108 includes actions that may be taken by a supplier or seller as part of the reverse auction. These may include accepting or declining a counter-offer and countering a counter-offer.

In step 109 a seller may send a corporate identification (ID) number to a buyer once a purchase agreement has been reached. After the corporate ID number is sent, the transaction may be closed by the buyer.

5 In step 110 the web server 1611 transmits a notice to the buyer as well as the seller that submitted the winning bid. The notice indicates confirmation of bid acceptance.

FIG. 2A illustrates a user interface 200 for entering the user's registration information. The user interface may be displayed in any one of the buyer PCs 1601-1603 in FIG. 16.

10 The interface 200 may include fields for logging in by entering a user name 202 and a password 204. An additional field 206 to provide password confirmation may also be provided. The login process may take place before actual registration into the system. That is, a new user may receive via E-mail a login and password needed for registration into the system. Alternatively, a user may first register and then  
15 obtain a login name and password.

FIG. 2B shows the fields in the interface 200 that are used for entering information about the company. The information may include the company name 208, the company category 210, the taxpayer identification number of the company 212, the company's address 216, the city, state and country in which the headquarters  
20 are located (218, 220, 222), the company's telephone and fax numbers (224, 226), the DUNS number 228, and the company's web site address 230.

The DUNS number may be defined as the number that the Dun & Bradstreet corporation assigns to a corporation in order to associate that corporation with a particular industry, etc. The DUNS number may be used in the present invention to

verify that a particular corporation signing up for registration is indeed a genuine corporation.

As part of the registration process, the buyer enters contact information as illustrated FIG. 2C. Specifically, the buyer may enter his or her name 232, his or her  
5 title 234, e-mail address 236, primary language 238 telephone number 240 and fax number 242 information.

FIG. 3A illustrates a user interface 300 for entering the buyer's travel policy information. The travel policy information may be included as part of the RFP and may be used by a seller in targeting RFPs on which to submit a bid.

10 The buyer may enter an alias 302 to maintain anonymity during the on-line auction process. The buyer may enter the name of an agency 304 to be used in booking travel along with the corresponding agency number 306. The agency IATA number refers to a number assigned by the Air Transport Association and may be used to identify travel agencies that book air travel. Further, the buyer may indicate  
15 whether the use of the current agency is enforced 308. That is, the buyer may have a travel agency of record the use of which may be enforced in booking travel through the system of the present invention as indicated in field 308. Finally, if the buyer does not want to enforce the use of the current agency but instead wants to enforce the use  
of a new agency for booking travel, the buyer may so indicate by use of the field 310.

20 The buyer may enter a class of service desired for flights that take less than a certain number of hours 312 or that last over another number of hours 314. The class of service can include coach, business, or first class. The buyer may also specify whether a non-stop flight is desired 316.

The buyer may enter alternate airport information in field 318 and travel pattern information in fields 320 and 322. The travel pattern information may include a current annual air volume 320 and expected change in air travel 322. The current annual air volume may indicate the calendar year annual air volume in dollars. The  
5 expected change 322 in air travel may be indicated in terms of percentage for the next calendar year.

Turning to FIG. 3B, the user interface 300 may also include a field 326 in which the buyer indicates that only certain suppliers will be able to bid on the RFP. The airlines in field 326 may be selected from a list of available airlines 324.

10 FIG. 3C displays fields 328 in which the buyer may enter the reasons why the airlines in list 326 were disregarded. Finally, FIG. 3D displays a message displayed to the buyer upon successful registration. After the message has been displayed, an e-mail is sent to the buyer with the username and password confirmation.

FIG. 4 illustrates a user interface 400 for uploading travel history data into a  
15 web site. In the example of FIG. 4, the travel history data may be located in a file in any one of the buyer PCs 1601-1603. The user interface 400 provides a field 402 for entering the name of the travel history file. The travel history data may be used to create an RFP. An RFP may also be created manually without relying on the upload of the travel history data.

20 The travel history data to be uploaded may be limited to only a part of the travel history. For example, the travel history may be limited by specifying a start date and an end date. The user interface 400 provides fields for entering a start date 404 and an end date 406. The user interface 400 also provides fields for entering the

country in which the tickets were purchased (408) and for entering future dates to travel (410 and 412).

The travel history data file may be created by using a spreadsheet program such as Excel. Further, the travel history data file may have fields that specify rank  
5 information, city pair information, airline, segment count, revenue, and class of service.

The rank refers to market rank based on revenue. The rank field is filled with a number, where one would be the highest rank. The revenue may be defined as the sum of the one-way trip cost of a market on a particular carrier minus the amount  
10 spent on commissions, discounts, taxes, etc.

The city pair field includes the bi-directional origin and destination cities, while the airline field includes the airline flown between the city pair.

The segment count field may include the sum of the number of segments flown in a particular market on a particular carrier. A segment may be defined as a  
15 one way trip. A market may be defined as the origin and destination cities. In a hotel context, a market may be defined as the location of a hotel. Further, in a car rental context, a market may be defined as the location of car pick up and return.

The revenue field may include the sum of the segment cost of a market on a particular carrier. The class of service field may indicate the class of service flown in  
20 a market on a carrier per segment basis, which may be defined as how much a corporation spends on a particular market and for a particular class of service (e.g., 100 one-way trips from Philadelphia to Dallas in coach class, where each one-way trip costs \$300.00). The revenue field would then include \$30,000 (100\*\$300.00) as the total revenue spent on the market.

FIG. 5A illustrates a user interface 500 for manually creating an RFP. The user interface may include fields for entering a category 502; the booking country 504; origin and destination cities (506 and 508); segments 510; travel start date and end date (512 and 514); the service class 516; the RFP start date and expiration date (518 and 520); and a section for access control 522.

The category field 502 may refer to the type of service or product for which the RFP is being submitted. The user interface 500 of FIG. 5A is customized for airline travel. Modifications of that embodiment may include the customization of the user interface so as to reflect RFPs for which a product or a service other than airline travel is desired.

The booking country field may refer to the country in which the airline tickets are being purchased. In field 506 the buyers may specify what airport or airports they may be willing to depart from. Similarly, in field 508 the buyers may specify the airport or airports where they may be willing to arrive.

Buyers may enter the segment (i.e., one-way trip) information in field 510. For example, the 100 segments in field 510 reflects 100 one-way trips being requested as part of the RFP.

Fields 512 and 514 may include a date or date range in which travel starts and ends respectively. In field 516 buyers may enter the service class desired. For example, buyers may specify coach, business, or first class.

In field 518, buyers may enter a date on which the RFP becomes available in the system for access by sellers. The field 520 includes the date on which the RFP stops being available in the system for review by the sellers.

The access control section 522 in the user interface 500 includes a list of the airlines excluded from the RFP.

FIG. 5B illustrates a user interface 524 for creating RFPs by using uploaded travel history files. FIG. 5C includes a section 526 for specifying the travel history  
5 dates used in creating a RFP. Also illustrated in FIG. 5C is a list of RFPs created from uploaded travel history files.

FIG. 6 illustrates a display of a buyer's RFPs that are open for bids as well as the corresponding bids. FIG. 6 also illustrates three bids submitted (624, 626, 628) for a single RFP. The RFPs are assigned an RFP number 602. In addition to  
10 displaying the RFP number, additional information about the RFPs is included. Each RFP in the list has an "active" status, which indicates that the RFPs are open for bidding. A status other than active may include "available", meaning that no response or bid has been received; "response", meaning that an airline has either submitted a bid or countered a buyer's counter-offer; "under offer", meaning that the buyer has  
15 counter-offered and awaits a response; "sold", meaning that an offer or bid has been accepted by the buyer; and "declined", meaning that bids made were not accepted by the buyer and bidding is closed. Other RFP and bid related information includes the bid supplier 604, booking country 606, city pair 608, number of segments offered 610, number of segments requested 612, service class 614, standard and travel dates  
20 (616, 618), and RFP start and end dates (620, 622).

FIG. 7 illustrates the details of bids submitted in reply to a specific RFP 702. Each bid has an associated status 703, which may indicate whether the bid is new, has been updated, countered by the buyer, or declined. Sellers also have access to bid details for a specific RFP and can therefore update their bids in an attempt to have

them accepted by the buyer. In one embodiment of the present invention, once a bid has been declined for a particular RFP, the seller that submitted the declined bid may not update that bid or submit a new one in reply to that RFP.

5 The field 704 indicates the name of the airline submitting the bid. The seller commitments section may include the price 705, percentage discount 706, percentage rebate 708, upgrades 710, and frequent flyer miles 712.

The buyer commitments section includes segment fields 714, percentage of one-way trips offered 716, percentage revenue 718, and revenue amount 720. The segment fields 714 include the number of segments offered by an airline at the price  
10 per segment indicated in the price column 705.

The percentage revenue 718 may include the percentage of revenue spent on a given market that may be required by the supplier in order to give a discount or incentive. For example, a supplier may expect to receive \$100,000.00 worth of business on a particular market or bundled market (at least two markets) in exchange  
15 for a 10% discount on these markets. In another example, a supplier may expect to receive 50% of the amount of money spent on a particular market, i.e., a buyer spends \$300,000.00 per year on a given market and the supplier expects at least \$150,000.00 from the buyer.

FIG. 8 illustrates a user interface 800 for responding to a bid. A buyer may  
20 review a bid 624 for a particular RFP number 802 and may reply to the bid by either accepting, declining, or countering the bid using the buttons 804.

FIG. 9 illustrates a user interface that is displayed to a seller for searching for either buyers or RFPs in the system which meet certain criteria. The user interface 900 may include fields 904 that allow a seller to search for RFPs based on criteria



such as the departure or arrival airport specified by a buyer, city pair, number of segments, service class, travel dates, etc.; fields 906 which allow the seller to search for RFPs from buyers based on buyers criteria such as the headquarter location of the buyer's company, the buyer's travel agency, expected change in air volume, etc.

5           The search field 902 provides sellers with the option of searching for all available RFPs that have been opened within a certain period of time. Finally, the seller has the option of searching for RFPs by clicking on button 908 in the user interface 900; or searching for buyers, by clicking on button 910.

          The RFP information may reside in the database 1611 of FIG. 16 and the  
10          search may be implemented by conducting a query into the database by using, for example, SQL commands that include the information entered in the fields 904 and 906 as parameters for the query. Once the RFPs that meet the description in the fields are retrieved from the database, they may be displayed to the seller. Each RFP includes information in addition to that used by the seller as parameters for the search.

15           FIG. 10 illustrates a display of the results from the search for buyers. The buyers may be identified by an alias 1002. The information displayed may be related to a specific RFP, submitted by the buyer 1002, which met the RFP search criteria. The information may include client air volume 1006, booking agency for the specific RFP 1004, headquarter city 1008 and headquarter's state 1010. The air volume may  
20          be defined as the total amount a corporation expects to spend on air travel over a specified period of time. For example, a corporation's annual air volume of \$1,500,000.00 means that the corporation is expected to spend that amount of money on air travel over the course of the year.

FIG. 11 illustrates an exemplary display of buyer history information as accessed by a supplier. The information displayed may include the buyer's alias 1102, the annual air volume in dollars 1104, expected air volume change 1114, the booking agency 1106 and associated IATA numbers 1112, agency enforcement indication 1108, agency required to book 1110, and travel policy information 1116. The seller may access a list of flights booked 1118 by the buyer within a historical data date range of interest.

FIG. 12 illustrates a display of list of RFPs 1204 submitted by a particular client 1202. The list 1204 may include a buyer's RFP that met the search criteria of a seller, as well as other RFPs submitted by the same buyer.

FIG. 14 illustrates an interface 1400 for entering bids. Once a buyer identifies a bid of interest, the buyer may start to negotiate with the seller that submitted that bid. The buyer may counter the initial bid as part of the negotiations. The user interface 1400 may display the original bid made by the seller 1401 as well as the counter offer 1402. The interface 1400, when displayed to the supplier, provides the supplier with a field 1404 to respond to the buyer's counter offer.

FIG. 15A illustrates a list 1502 of the bids in progress submitted by a supplier in reply to several RFPs. The information on the list may include the RFP number 1504, the buyer alias 1506, booking country 1508, city pair 1510, number of segments offered in the bid 1512, number of segments initially requested by the buyer 1514, the service class 1516, the travel start date 1518, the travel end date 1520, the RFP start date 1522 and the RFP expiration date 1524. Similarly, FIG. 15B illustrates a list of RFPs that have been finalized 1526. The list 1526 includes a section specifying those RFPs sold to other suppliers 1528 as well as those declined 1530.

While this invention has been described in conjunction with the specific embodiments outlined above, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations are apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the preferred embodiments of the invention as set forth above are intended to be illustrative and not  
5 limiting. Various changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An on-line reverse auctioning method comprising:  
receiving information from a buyer to create a request for proposals;  
posting the request for proposals in a web site for access by sellers;  
5 displaying to the sellers and to the buyer via the web site at least one bid  
submitted in reply to the request for proposals by at least one of the sellers; and  
receiving notification of acceptance for one of the bids.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information from a buyer to create  
10 the request for proposals comprises:  
receiving a service category;  
receiving a start date for access to the request for proposals;  
receiving number of segments; and  
receiving an expiration date for access to the request for proposals.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving information from a buyer to create  
the request for proposals further comprises:  
receiving airline travel as the service category;  
receiving airport departure and arrival information; and  
20 receiving travel dates.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
displaying bid details for the request for proposals.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a record of historical travel data of the buyer and posting the record  
in the web site.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein receiving information from a buyer to create  
5 the request for proposals comprises:

receiving one of an historical travel data record in its entirety, multiple  
selections from the record, and a single selection from the record, to create the request  
for proposals.

- 10 7. The method of claim 5, wherein receiving the record of the buyer's historical  
travel data comprises:

receiving origin and destination cities;

receiving an airline used to travel between the origin and destination cities;

- 15 receiving sum of number of one way trips flown in a particular market on a  
particular airline;

receiving an expected change in travel information;

receiving a sum of segment cost of a market on a particular airline; and

receiving information indicating class of service flown in a market on airline  
per segment.

20

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating an electronic contract between the buyer and the seller that submitted  
the accepted bid.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving offers from the buyer and a seller to negotiate a bid.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein receiving offers comprises receiving a counter  
5 offer.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein declining a received offer stops negotiation of  
the bid.
- 10 12. The method of claim 10, wherein declining a received counter offer stops  
negotiation of the bid.
13. An on-line reverse auctioning method comprising:  
searching for requests for proposals in a data base;  
15 accessing a request for proposals;  
receiving a first bid in reply to the request for proposals;  
displaying other bids received in reply to the request for proposals; and  
sending a notification to a party that submitted the request for proposals when  
that party accepts a bid.
- 20 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising displaying bid details for the  
request for proposals.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying bid details includes at least one of  
the following:

- displaying rank of a bid;
  - displaying status of a bid;
  - displaying supplier making a bid;
  - displaying price;
  - 5 displaying discount off the point of sale purchase price;
  - displaying cash back information;
  - displaying upgrades information;
  - displaying miles credited;
  - displaying expiration date of bid;
  - 10 displaying number of segments;
  - displaying segments as a percentage of the total number of expected trips; and
  - displaying revenue percentage.
16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
- 15 updating the first bid after seller review of other bids.
17. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
- receiving a counter offer from the party that submitted the request for proposals.
- 20
18. The method of claim 13, wherein searching for request for proposals comprises:

receiving search criteria that includes a city pair, airport code, number of segments, class of service, travel start and end dates, request for proposals open and expire dates, and request for proposals number.

5      19.    The method of claim 13, further comprising searching for buyers with available request for proposals.

20.    The method of claim 19, wherein searching for buyers with available request for proposals comprises:

10            receiving search criteria that includes at least one of the following:

          annual travel volume; travel agency; buyer identification number; booking agency; agency IATA number; expected change in travel volume; alternate airport information; and buyer headquarters location.

15      21.    The method of claim 13, wherein accessing a request for proposals includes: displaying generic buyer information without the buyer's name being displayed.

20      22.    The method of claim 13, wherein accessing a request for proposals includes displaying buyer history information.

23.    The method of claim 13, wherein receiving a first bid comprises:  
receiving a price and at least one of the following:  
receiving a percentage discount;  
receiving rebate information;



receiving upgrades information; and  
receiving frequent flyer miles included as a bonus offer.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein receiving a first bid comprises:
- 5 receiving information on percentage of revenue on offer made;  
receiving percent of business desired from offer based on segments; and  
receiving price per segments; and entering number of segments committed by  
buyer.
- 10 25. The method of claim 14 wherein displaying bid details includes at least one of  
the following:
- displaying rank of a bid;  
displaying status of a bid;  
displaying supplier making a bid;  
15 displaying price;  
displaying discount off the point of sale purchase price;  
displaying cash back information;  
displaying upgrades information;  
displaying miles credited;  
20 displaying expiration date of bid;  
displaying number of segments;  
displaying segments as a percentage of the total number of expected trips; and  
displaying revenue percentage.

26. A system for conducting an on-line reverse auction comprising:
- means for searching for requests for proposals in a data base;
  - means for accessing a request for proposals;
  - means for receiving a first bid in reply to the request for proposals;
  - 5 means for displaying other bids received in reply to the request for proposals;
  - means for displaying bid details for the request for proposals; and
  - means for sending an identification number to a party that submitted the request for proposals when that party accepts a bid.
- 10 27. A system for conducting an on-line reverse auction comprising:
- means for receiving information from a buyer to create a request for proposals;
  - means for posting the request for proposals in a web site for access by sellers;
  - means for displaying to the sellers and to the buyer via the web site at least one bid submitted by at least one of the sellers in reply to the request for proposals;
  - 15 and
  - means for receiving notification of acceptance for one of the bids.

1/20

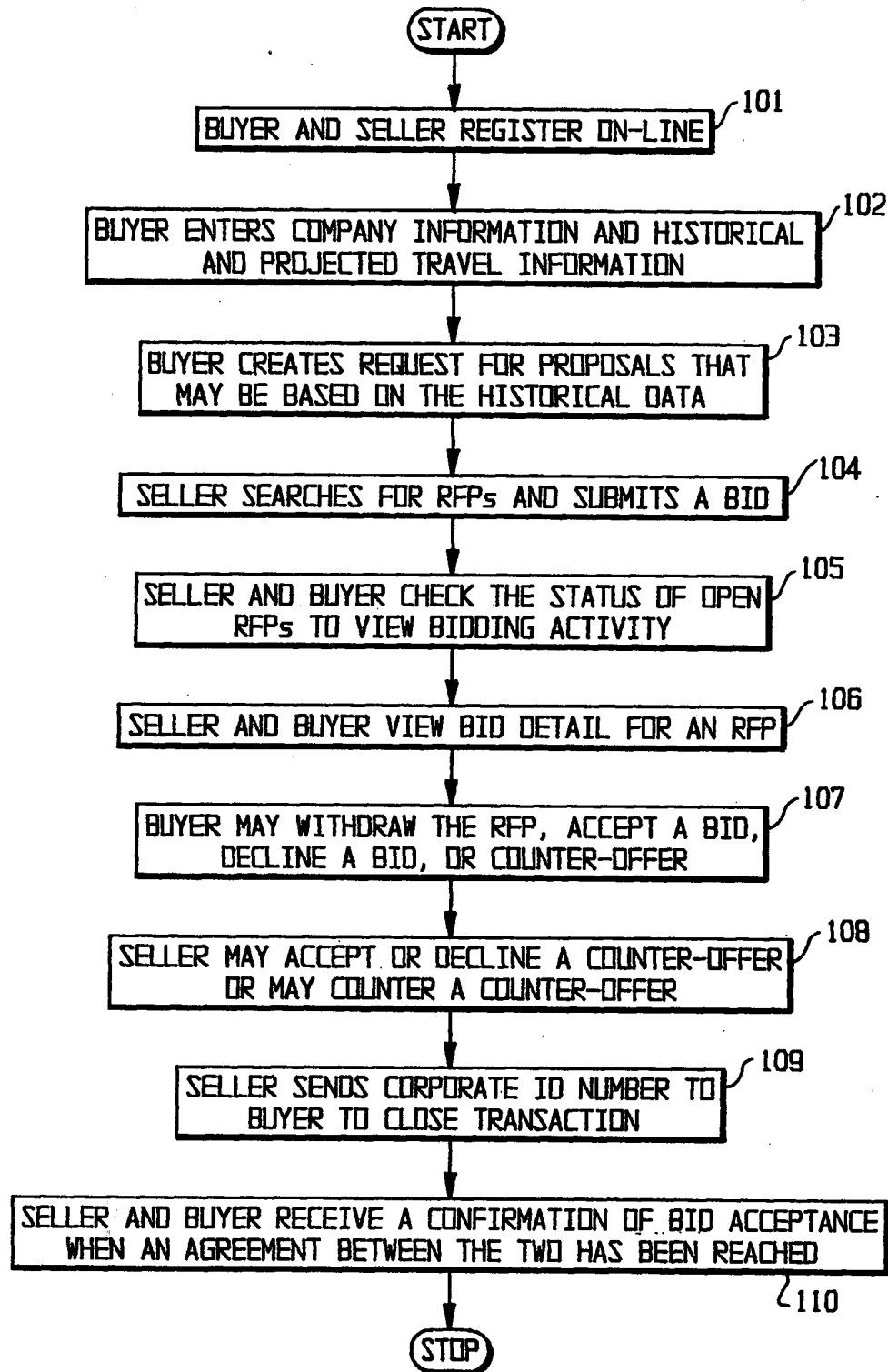


FIG. 1

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome How It Works Registration Travel Links Home Help Contact Us

Registration Process

Buyer Registration

Supplier Registration

Cancel Registration

① Select a User Name & Password

User Name 202

Note: User Name and Password must be at least 8 alphanumeric characters

Password 204

Confirm Password 206

Password is case-sensitive

☒ I Agree to the Terms of myTravelbid.com's Membership Agreement

Next

200

FIG. 2A

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome How It Works Registration Travel Links Home Help Contact Us

Registration Process

Buyer Registration

Supplier Registration

Cancel Registration

2 Enter your company information

USER NAME: BUYER 1234

Company Name: Buyer Company, Corp. \*

Company Category: Biotechnology \*

Taxpayer ID (US ONLY): 09 1400001 \*

☐ If your company is already a nyTravelbid.com member, enter the above information, check the box and click "Next"

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION

Main Address: 1234 Market Street \*

2nd Floor

City: Philadelphia \*

State/Prov./Other: Pennsylvania \*

Postal Code/Zip: 19145 \*

Country: UNITED STATES \*

Main Phone/Ext: 215-555-1212 123

Main Fax: 215-555-1213

DUNS Number: 12 123 1234

Web Site/URL: www.buyercompany.com

\* Required Field

Next

FIG. 2B

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome How It Works Registration Travel Links Home Help Contact Us

Registration Process

Buyer Registration

Supplier Registration

Cancel Registration

3 Enter Primary Contact Information

USER NAME: BUYER 1234 (Buyer Company, Corp.)

First Name John \* 232

Last Name Doe \* 234

Title Director \* 236

E-mail Address jdoe@buyercompany.com \* 238

Primary Language English (North America) 238

Business Phone/Ext 215-555-1234 \* x 123 240

Business Fax 215-555-4321 242

☐ Check here if you would like to receive important news updates from nytravel.com

PRIMARY CONTACT LOCATION

☐ Check here if your Location Information is the same as Your Company's Headquarters

Main Address \*

City \*

State/Prov./Other \*

Postal Code/Zip \*

Country \*

\* Required Field

Next

FIG. 2C

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<a href="#">Home</a>   <a href="#">Help</a>   <a href="#">Contact Us</a>	
<a href="#">Registration Process</a> <a href="#">Buyer Registration</a> <a href="#">Supplier Registration</a> <a href="#">Cancel Registration</a>	<div> <div> BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS </div> <div> Welcome How It Works Registration Travel Links </div> </div> <h3>④ Travel Policies and Future Travel Information</h3> <div> <div>USER NAME: BUYER 1234 (Buyer Company, Corp.)</div> <div>EXCHANGE ALIAS</div> <div> Exchange Alias Ar11auchesatjul 302 </div> <p>The Exchange Alias provides a way for myTravel.com to maintain a Buyer's anonymity during the exchange process. This alias should remain confidential to your company and not reference your corporate identity in any way. After completion of a successful exchange, you will be asked to update your Exchange Alias. The Exchange Alias must be unique and consist of a minimum of 8 alphanumeric characters.</p> <div>BOOKING POLICY</div> <div> Current Travel Agency Ar11auchesatjul 304 </div> <div> Agency IATA Number 12345678 306 </div> <p>My Travel Policy enforces the use of the above agency for booking travel</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No </p> <p>Name the agency required to book your travel</p> <p> biz.Travel.com 310 </p> <div>CLASS OF SERVICE POLICY</div> <div> SHORT FLIGHTS 312 LONG FLIGHTS 314 </div> <p>When flying LESS than 4 hours, my policy is to fly Coach</p> <p>When flying GREATER than 5 hours, my policy is to fly Business</p> <div>CONNECTIONS</div> <p>In order to reduce travel costs, my travelers are</p> <p>Willing to fly connections in non-stop markets</p> <div>ALTERNATE AIRPORTS</div> <p>In order to reduce travel costs, my travelers are</p> <p>Willing to use alternate airports within a radius of 30 miles</p> <div>TRAVEL PATTERNS</div> <p>Current Annual Air Volume \$ 1000000 USD (please exclude connas)</p> <p>Expected Change in Air Travel +25% 320</p> <div>RESTRICTED SUPPLIERS</div> <p>Important: myTravel.com does NOT permit Buyers to negotiate with Travel Suppliers they currently have contracts with. If Buyers do not indicate that they have a current arrangement with a Travel Supplier, and then proceed to create a new contract with the same Travel Supplier through myTravel.com, both contracts will become null and void. In addition, the Buyer will be excluded from using myTravel.com in the future.</p> </div>

FIG. 3A

300

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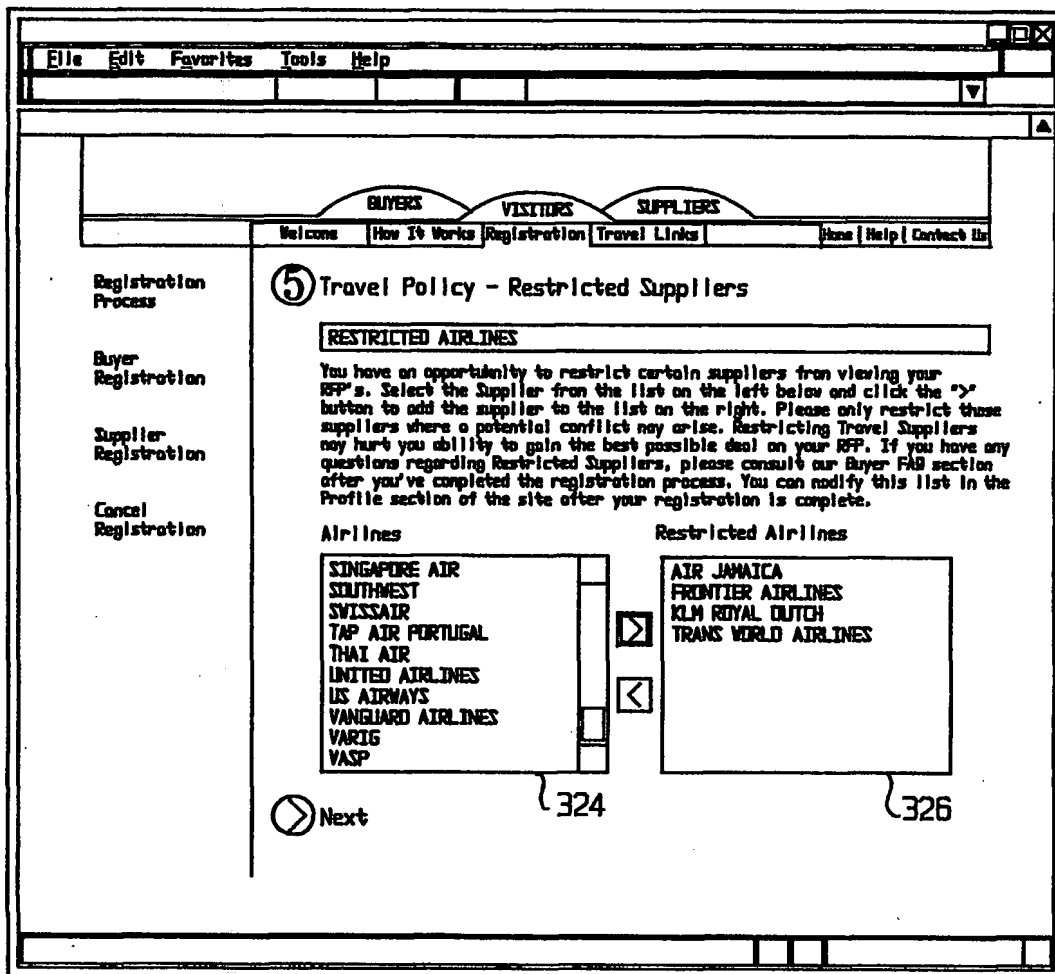


FIG. 3B

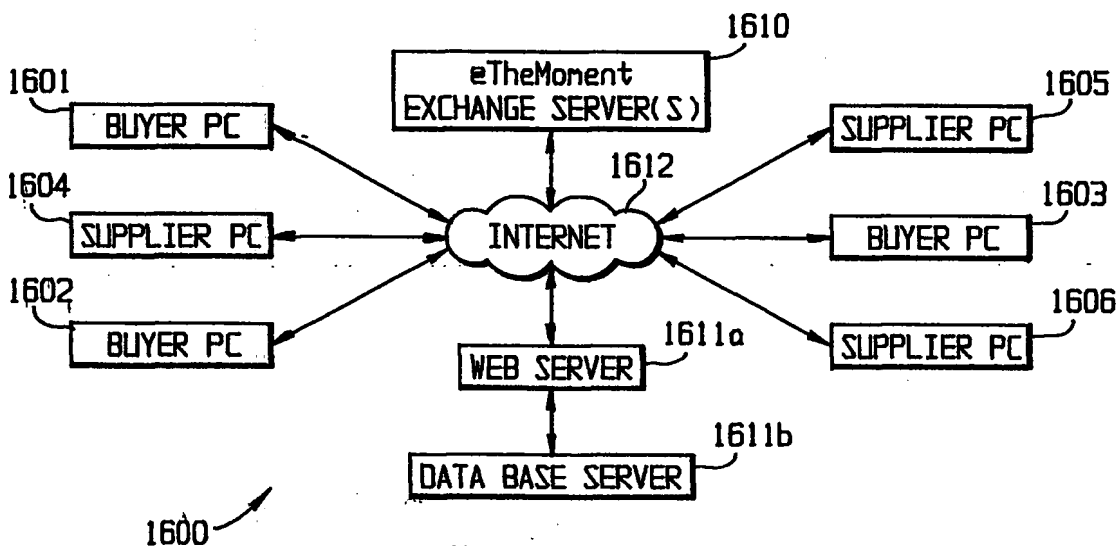


FIG. 16



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The screenshot shows a web browser window with a menu bar (File, Edit, Favorites, Tools, Help) and a navigation bar with tabs for BUYERS, VISITORS, and SUPPLIERS. Below the navigation bar is a sub-menu with links: Welcome, How It Works, Registration, Travel Links, Home | Help | Contact Us. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with options: Registration Process, Buyer Registration, Supplier Registration, and Cancel Registration. The main content area is titled '5 Travel Policy - Restricted Suppliers' with a page number '328'. It contains a section titled 'RESTRICTED AIRLINES' with the instruction: 'Please provide a reason from the list below for restricting a specific supplier from viewing your RFP's.' Below this is a table with two columns: 'AIRLINE' and 'Reason'. The table lists four airlines: AIR JAMAICA, FRONTIER AIRLINES, KLM ROYAL DUTCH, and TRANS WORLD AIRLINES. The reasons are: Too Expensive, Have Existing Travel Program, Traveler Preference, and Other. At the bottom of the main content area is a 'Next' button with a right-pointing arrow.

AIRLINE	Reason
AIR JAMAICA	Too Expensive
FRONTIER AIRLINES	Have Existing Travel Program
KLM ROYAL DUTCH	Traveler Preference
TRANS WORLD AIRLINES	Other

Next

FIG. 3C

The screenshot shows the same web browser window as FIG. 3C, but the main content area now displays a 'Thank you for registering' message. The message includes a welcome note, instructions on how to confirm registration information, and a link to the registration page. The page number is '330'. The left sidebar and navigation bar remain the same.

\* Thank you for registering

Welcome to myTravelbid.com. An email has been sent to jdoesbuycorpany.com confirming your registration information. In order for your account to be enabled, your information must first be verified by a myTravelbid.com account manager. Once approved, you may log on to myTravelbid.com.

If you have any questions, please contact us online or email us at [registration@mytravelbid.com](mailto:registration@mytravelbid.com).

Logon to myTravelbid.com, or  
Return to the myTravelbid.com homepage

FIG. 3D

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

Welcome to The Exchange

Enter The Exchange

Travel History Upload

Frequently Asked Questions

Disclaimer

Rules of The Exchange

Privacy

Help

Logout

### Upload Your Company's Travel History

Currently, History Upload Files must be in Excel 4.0 or later format AND follow the nyTravelbid.com Upload Template. Instructions regarding specifications required for a successful data upload are also found in this file.

**FILENAME**

Enter filename to upload

c:\temp\my\_travel\_history.xls

**TRAVEL DETAILS DATE RANGE**

From 01/01/00 (mm/dd/yy) To 06/30/00 (mm/dd/yy)

**BOOKING COUNTRY**

Country UNITED STATES

**FUTURE TRAVEL DATE COVERAGE FOR THIS REP**

From 01/01/01 (mm/dd/yy) To 06/30/01 (mm/dd/yy)

FIG. 4

400

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

My Travel Requests Create on RFP Create RFP's from History Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

### Create on RFP

Category: Air Travel

Booking Country: USA

Airport 1: PHL

Airport 2: DGS

One-Way Trips: 100

Travel Start Date: 01/01/2001

Travel End Date: 06/30/2001

Service Class: Coach

Request Opens: 09/15/2000

Request Expires: 10/15/2000

Airlines Restricted:

- AER LINGUS
- AIR CHINA
- AIR FRANCE

Save Cancel

FIG. 5A

500

File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

My Travel Requests Create on RFP Create RFP's from History Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

### History and Travel Dates - From History

History Start Date	History End Date	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	Booking Country
1/1/2000	8/30/2000	1/1/2001	8/30/2001	US
7/1/1999	12/31/1999	7/1/2001	12/31/2001	US

Save Cancel

FIG. 5B

524

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

My Travel Requests Create an RFP Create RFP's from History Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

### Bulk RFP Creation - From History

526

Travel Start Date: 1/1/2001 RFP Open Date:

Travel End Date: 6/30/2001 RFP Close Date:

Airlines Restricted: None Booking Country: USA ▼

### RFP's - From History

<input type="checkbox"/> History One Way Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> New One Way Trips	Class	Airport1	Airport2
<input type="checkbox"/> 111	<input type="text" value="110"/>	Any Class ▼	BOS	PHL
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="text" value="8"/>	Any Class ▼	BOS	PHL
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="text" value="7"/>	Any Class ▼	BOS	PHL
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="text" value="7"/>	Any Class ▼	BOS	PHL
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	<input type="text" value="28"/>	Any Class ▼	ORD	SFO
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="text" value="20"/>	Any Class ▼	ORD	SFO
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Any Class ▼	JFK	LHR
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Any Class ▼	JFK	LHR
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Any Class ▼	JFK	LHR

528

New Save All

FIG. 5C

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home Help Contact Us

My Travel Requests Create an RFP Create RFP's from History Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

Individual RFP's 630

Status Key 624 626

☐ Available ☒ Active ☐ Under Offer ☐ Resource Requested ☐ Sold/Accepted ☐ Declined ☐ Withdrawn ☐ Expired

RFP	Supplier	Booking Country	City-Pair	One-Way Trips	Initial Trips Req.	Class	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date
<input type="checkbox"/> 3806	Delta	USA	LAX-ORD	220	220	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/13/2000	8/20/2000
<input type="checkbox"/> 3806	Southwest	USA	LAX-ORD	220	220	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/13/2000	8/20/2000
<input type="checkbox"/> 3806	United	USA	LAX-ORD	220	220	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/13/2000	8/20/2000
<input type="checkbox"/> 3812		USA	FLL-LGA	100	100	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/14/2000	8/25/2000
<input type="checkbox"/> 3811		USA	DEN-SFO	300	300	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/14/2000	8/25/2000

602 604 606 608 Withdraw RFP 614 616 618 620 622

Bundled RFP's

RFP	Supplier	Booking Country	City-Pair	One-Way Trips	Class	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date
There are no results in this list									

FIG. 6

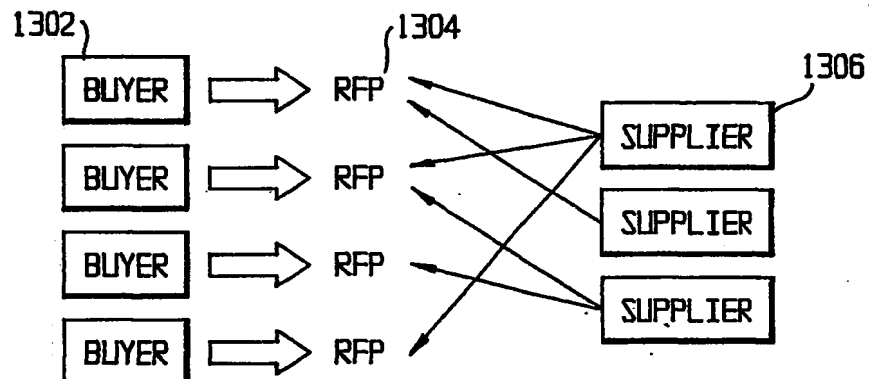


FIG. 13

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

My Travel Requests Create an RFP Create RFP's from History Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

### RFP Offer Summary

RFP Detail

RFP	3608	SERVICE CLASS	Coach	BOOKING COUNTRY	USA
CATEGORY	Air Travel	REQUEST OPENS	9/13/2000	TRAVEL START DATE	10/1/2000
ONE-WAY TRIPS	220	REQUEST EXPIRES	9/20/2000	TRAVEL END DATE	9/30/2001
INITIAL TRIPS REQUESTED	220	CITY PAIR	LAX-ORD	STATUS	Active

### Supplier Offers

Status	Trader	Supplier Commitments				Buyer Commitments			
		Fixed Fare	% Discount (Front)	% Rebate (Back)	Upgrades	Miles	# of One Way Trips	% of One Way Trips	% of Revenue
624	United	450			20		220	100	
626	Delta	410		1			220	100	
628	Southwest		20		10		220	100	

703 704 705 706 708 710 712 714 716 718 720

### Supplier Bundle Offers

Status	Trader	Supplier Commitments				Buyer Commitments			
		Fixed Fare	% Discount (Front)	% Rebate (Back)	Upgrades	Miles	# of One Way Trips	% of One Way Trips	% of Revenue
There are no results in this list									

FIG. 7

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

My Travel Requests Create an RFP Create RFP's from History Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

**RFP Bid Detail**

RFP	3608	SERVICE CLASS	Coach	BOOKING COUNTRY	USA
CATEGORY	Air Travel	REQUEST OPENS	9/13/2000	TRAVEL START DATE	10/1/2000
ONE-WAY TRIPS	220	REQUEST EXPIRES	9/20/2000	TRAVEL END DATE	9/30/2001
INITIAL TRIPS REQUESTED	220	CITY PAIR	LAX-ORD	STATUS	Active

802

Status	Trader	Supplier Commitments				Buyer Commitments			
		Z Fixed Fare	Z Discount (Front)	Z Rebate (Back)	Upgrades	Miles	# of One Way Trips	Z of One Way Trips	Z of Revenue
Response	United	450			20		220	100	

624

Comments:  
09/14/2000: United All upgrades will be received after 220 segments are flown.

Corporate ID Number: 1548

Ticketing Instructions: Must book in M class

Action: ☐ Accept ☒ Counter ☐ Decline

Reasons for Decline: Price

804

Fixed Fare	Z Discount (Front)	Z Rebate (Back)	Upgrades	Miles	# of One Way Trips	Z of One Way Trips	Z of Revenue
425			15		200	91	

Comments:

Acceptance of a bid will result in a binding contract between buyer and the seller.

Submit Cancel

FIG. 8

800

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help

BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home | Help | Contact Us

My Sales In Progress Search For Buyers Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

### Search RFP's

Quick search for Available/Active RFP's opened in the last  days:

Below you have the option to search for Available/Active RFP's on which to bid, based on individual RFP criteria and/or Buyer profile criteria.

#### RFP Search Criteria

Airport Code	▲	=
City Pair		>
Service Class		<
Travel Start Date		<=
Travel End Date	▼	

#### Buyer Search Criteria

Current Travel Agency	▲	=
Agency Booking Required		>
Agency Required to Book		>=
Agency IATA Number		<
Expected Change in AirVolume		<=
Service Alternate Airport	▼	

#### Criteria Summary

FIG. 9



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File Edit Favorites Tools Help					
BUYERS		VISITORS		SUPPLIERS	
Welcome	The Exchange	Profile	Brochures	Contact	Phone   Help   Contact Us
My Sales In Progress		Search For Buyers		Finalize RFP's	
Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.					
<b>Search RFP Results</b>					
Buyer ID	Agency of Record	Annual Air Volume	Headquarter City	Headquarter State	
<u>123000008</u>	Rosenbluth International	2000000	San M	PA	
<u>ARFARF</u>	Rosenbluth International	40000	Philadelphia		
<u>ARTLAUCHESAT.JUL</u>	Giselle	1000000	Pittsburgh	CA	
<u>CHIPMAKER</u>	American Express	450000	Sunnyvale	NM	
<u>Cisco</u>	Carson Travels	1000000	Santa Fe		
<u>FREELEGAL</u>	American Express	450000	Sacramento		
<u>GOLDY</u>	Carlson	40000	Santa Fe	NM	
<u>HORSEAROUND</u>	Rosenbluth	100000	Chicago		
<u>ISLAND</u>	Rosenbluth	100000	Oakland	CA	
<u>ISLAND</u>		0	Oakland	CA	
<u>JULIA</u>	Giselle	10000000	Las Angeles	CA	
<u>LAWSLITTE</u>			San Mateo		
<u>PICASSO</u>	Rosenbluth International	50000	Phoenix		
<u>SEPTEMBER22</u>					
<u>SPORTY</u>	Rosenbluth International	100000	Beaverton		
<u>Sun</u>	International	400000	San Diego		
<u>WEFLOR</u>	American Express	340000	Chicago		

FIG. 10

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
<div> <div>BUYERS</div> <div>VISITORS</div> <div>SUPPLIERS</div> </div>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
<div> <div>Welcome</div> <div>The Exchange</div> <div>Profile</div> <div>Brochures</div> <div>Contact</div> <div>Base/Help</div> <div>Contact Us</div> </div>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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<p><b>Buyer Profile</b></p> <p>Buyer ID: ISLAND 1102 1104</p> <p>Current AirVolume: 2,500,000 1106</p> <p>Current Travel Agency: Rosenbluth 1108</p> <p>Agency Enforcement: Yes 1110</p> <p>Agency Required to Book: Yes 1112</p> <p>Agency IATA Number: 1114</p> <p>Expected Change in AirVolume: 0 + 1090</p> <p>1116 Travel Policy</p> <p>Standard Class of Service Long Haul:</p> <p>Long Haul: 0</p> <p>Standard Class of Service Short Haul:</p> <p>Short Haul: 0</p> <p>Connections in Non-Stop Markets:</p> <p>Within a Radius of: 0</p> <p>Service Alternate Airport:</p> <p>Travel History 1118</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>RANK</th> <th>ORIGIN</th> <th>DESTINATION</th> <th>CITY PAIR</th> <th>AIRLINES</th> <th>ONE-WAY TRIPS</th> <th>COST</th> <th>CLASS_SERVICE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>27</td><td>CLT</td><td>PHL</td><td>CLTPHL</td><td>--</td><td>22</td><td>7857.47</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>108</td><td>ATL</td><td>JAX</td><td>ATLJAX</td><td>--</td><td>5</td><td>318.85</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>111</td><td>MKE</td><td>PHL</td><td>MKEPHL</td><td>--</td><td>5</td><td>1571.39</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>184</td><td>DTW</td><td>BOS</td><td>DTWBOS</td><td>--</td><td>3</td><td>543.24</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>277</td><td>PHL</td><td>SLC</td><td>PHLSLC</td><td>--</td><td>2</td><td>277.21</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>380</td><td>BND</td><td>TYS</td><td>BNDTYS</td><td>--</td><td>1</td><td>383.25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>443</td><td>MKE</td><td>SEA</td><td>MKESEA</td><td>--</td><td>1</td><td>282.77</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>528</td><td>MSN</td><td>ORD</td><td>MSNORD</td><td>--</td><td>1</td><td>288.42</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>ATL</td><td>PHL</td><td>ATLPHL</td><td>--</td><td>405</td><td>52210.95</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>GSO</td><td>PHL</td><td>GSOPHL</td><td>--</td><td>248</td><td>70410.60</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>MCO</td><td>PHL</td><td>MCOPHL</td><td>--</td><td>112</td><td>27175.34</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>ORD</td><td>PHL</td><td>ORDPHL</td><td>--</td><td>74</td><td>18580.79</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>MSP</td><td>PHL</td><td>MSPPHL</td><td>--</td><td>68</td><td>24705.80</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>PHL</td><td>SEA</td><td>PHLSEA</td><td>--</td><td>60</td><td>22038.59</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>LAS</td><td>PHL</td><td>LASPHL</td><td>--</td><td>43</td><td>8808.64</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>PHL</td><td>ROU</td><td>PHLROU</td><td>--</td><td>42</td><td>14114.43</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>MSY</td><td>PHL</td><td>MSYPHL</td><td>--</td><td>42</td><td>10636.83</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>ICT</td><td>PHL</td><td>ICTPHL</td><td>--</td><td>41</td><td>26554.27</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>ATL</td><td>MCO</td><td>ATLMCO</td><td>--</td><td>41</td><td>7371.58</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>PHL</td><td>PHX</td><td>PHLPHX</td><td>--</td><td>40</td><td>1835.30</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>DFW</td><td>PHL</td><td>DFWPHL</td><td>--</td><td>39</td><td>18353.05</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>LAX</td><td>SDF</td><td>LAXSDF</td><td>--</td><td>35</td><td>2728.80</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>DFW</td><td>IAH</td><td>DFWIAH</td><td>--</td><td>31</td><td>2929.59</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>BOS</td><td>PHL</td><td>BOSPHL</td><td>--</td><td>29</td><td>4950.64</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>DEN</td><td>SLC</td><td>DENSLC</td><td>--</td><td>28</td><td>3043.11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>PHL</td><td>TYS</td><td>PHLTYS</td><td>--</td><td>27</td><td>9187.04</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>PHL</td><td>SFO</td><td>PHLSFO</td><td>--</td><td>27</td><td>16471.43</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>PHL</td><td>PWM</td><td>PHLPWM</td><td>--</td><td>27</td><td>8588.26</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>DFW</td><td>TUL</td><td>DFWTUL</td><td>--</td><td>26</td><td>1839.81</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>										RANK	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	CITY PAIR	AIRLINES	ONE-WAY TRIPS	COST	CLASS_SERVICE	27	CLT	PHL	CLTPHL	--	22	7857.47		108	ATL	JAX	ATLJAX	--	5	318.85		111	MKE	PHL	MKEPHL	--	5	1571.39		184	DTW	BOS	DTWBOS	--	3	543.24		277	PHL	SLC	PHLSLC	--	2	277.21		380	BND	TYS	BNDTYS	--	1	383.25		443	MKE	SEA	MKESEA	--	1	282.77		528	MSN	ORD	MSNORD	--	1	288.42		1	ATL	PHL	ATLPHL	--	405	52210.95		2	GSO	PHL	GSOPHL	--	248	70410.60		3	MCO	PHL	MCOPHL	--	112	27175.34		4	ORD	PHL	ORDPHL	--	74	18580.79		5	MSP	PHL	MSPPHL	--	68	24705.80		6	PHL	SEA	PHLSEA	--	60	22038.59		7	LAS	PHL	LASPHL	--	43	8808.64		8	PHL	ROU	PHLROU	--	42	14114.43		9	MSY	PHL	MSYPHL	--	42	10636.83		10	ICT	PHL	ICTPHL	--	41	26554.27		11	ATL	MCO	ATLMCO	--	41	7371.58		12	PHL	PHX	PHLPHX	--	40	1835.30		13	DFW	PHL	DFWPHL	--	39	18353.05		14	LAX	SDF	LAXSDF	--	35	2728.80		15	DFW	IAH	DFWIAH	--	31	2929.59		16	BOS	PHL	BOSPHL	--	29	4950.64		17	DEN	SLC	DENSLC	--	28	3043.11		18	PHL	TYS	PHLTYS	--	27	9187.04		19	PHL	SFO	PHLSFO	--	27	16471.43		20	PHL	PWM	PHLPWM	--	27	8588.26		21	DFW	TUL	DFWTUL	--	26	1839.81	
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FIG. 11

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BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

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My Sales In Progress Search For Buyers Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

**RFP Status**

**Buyer Profile Summary**  
Details & Travel History

Buyer ID	CHIPMAKER	Air Volume	450000
Travel Agency	American Express	Headquarters	Santa Fe
Agency IATA Number			

**RFP Status** 1202 1204

RFP	Status	Booking Country	City-Pair	One-Way Trips	Flight Class	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date
2018	Available	Canada	LAX-SFO	345	Any Class	8/8/2001	8/8/2002	8/8/2000	8/8/2000
3118	Active	Canada	ALS-SAT	8578	First Class	12/1/2000	12/1/2001	10/1/2000	11/12/2000
3117	Active	Canada	SFO-LAX	8578	Business	12/1/2000	12/1/2001	10/1/2000	11/12/2000
3018	Active	Canada	SFO-LAX	12583	Any Class	12/1/2000	12/1/2001	10/10/2000	10/12/2000
3118	Active	Canada	SFO-LAX	8578	Any Class	12/1/2000	12/1/2001	10/10/2000	10/12/2000
3424	Available	USA	PDX-SFO	100	Coach	10/1/2000	11/1/2000	8/10/2000	8/20/2000
3448	Available	USA	BOS-ORD	1000	Coach	8/1/2000	4/1/2001	8/30/2000	8/31/2000
3472	Active	USA	BOS-JFK	10	Coach	12/1/2000	12/31/2000	8/28/2000	8/28/2000
3478	Active	USA	BOS-LAX	500	Coach	8/10/2000	4/1/2001	8/28/2000	8/10/2000
3478	Active	USA	BOS-DFW	250	Coach	10/1/2000	4/1/2001	8/28/2000	8/30/2000
3478	Available	USA	BOS-CLE	1000	Coach	10/1/2000	4/1/2001	8/28/2000	8/30/2000
3480	Active	USA	BOS-BMT	500	Coach	10/1/2000	4/1/2001	8/28/2000	8/30/2000
3481	Available	USA	BOS-MCO	2500	Coach	10/1/2000	4/1/2001	8/28/2000	8/30/2000
3578	Available	USA	BOS-SFO	50	Coach	12/1/2000	12/31/2000	8/1/2000	8/15/2000
3605	Available	USA	BOS-LAX	200	First Class	10/1/2000	10/15/2000	8/13/2000	8/30/2000

Propose Bundles

FIG. 12

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File Edit Favorites Tools Help									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>BUYERS</span> <span>VISITORS</span> <span>SUPPLIERS</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Welcome</span> <span>The Exchange</span> <span>Profile</span> <span>Brochures</span> <span>Contact</span> <span>Home</span> <span>Help</span> <span>Contact Us</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>My Sales In Progress</span> <span>Search For Buyers</span> <span>Finalize RFP's</span> <span>Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.</span> </div>									
RFP Bid Detail									
RFP	3808	BUYER ID	ISLAND	BOOKING COUNTRY	USA				
CATEGORY	Air Travel	REQUEST OPENS	9/13/2000	TRAVEL START DATE	10/1/2000				
ONE-WAY TRIPS	220	REQUEST EXPIRES	9/20/2000	TRAVEL END DATE	9/30/2001				
INITIAL TRIPS REQUESTED	220	CITY PAIR	LAX-ORD	STATUS	Active				
SERVICE CLASS	Coach								

Status	Trader	Supplier Commitments				Buyer Commitments			
		Fixed Fare	Z Discount (Front)	Z Rebate (Back)	Upgrades	Miles	# of One Way Trips	Z of One Way Trips	Z of Revenue
1401	United	450			20		220	100	
Under Offer	ISLAND	425			15		200	91	
Comments: (9/14/2000) United All upgrades will be received after 220 segments are flown. (9/15/2000) ISLAND-									

Corporate ID Number: 1548

Actions: ☐ Accept ☒ Counter ☐ Decline

1404

Ticketing Instructions: Must book in H class

Reasons for Decline: Price

Fixed Fare	Z Discount (Front)	Z Rebate (Back)	Upgrades	Miles	# of One Way Trips	Z of One Way Trips	Z of Revenue
425			15		200	91	

Acceptance of a bid will result in a binding contract between buyer and the seller.

FIG. 14

1400

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BUYERS VISITORS SUPPLIERS

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My Sales In Progress Search For Buyers Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.

**My Sales In Progress 1502**

Status Key

☐ Available ☒ Active ☐ Under Offer ☐ Resource Requested ☒ Sold/Accepted ☒ Declined ☐ Withdrawn ☐ Expired

RFP	Buyer ID	Booking Country	City-Pair	One-Way Trips	Initial Trips Req.	Flight Class	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date
2047	FREELEGN	Canada	DEL-HND	800	800	Any Class	8/8/2000	8/8/2001	8/1/2000	8/2/2000
3314	Integration1	Canada	BOS-LAX	100	100	Coach	2/1/2001	5/1/2001	8/23/2000	8/23/2000
2765	PICASSO	Canada	ban-del	20	100	Any Class	8/8/2000	8/1/2000	8/1/2000	8/8/2000
3381	PICASSO	USA	GRA-KRP	870	870	Business	10/8/2001	10/8/2001	10/13/2000	10/4/2001
3606	ISLAND	USA	LAX-ORD	220	220	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/13/2000	8/28/2000

1504 1506 1508 1510 1512 1514 1516 1518 1520 1522 1524

**My Sales In Progress - Bundles**

RFP	Buyer ID	One-Way Trips	Initial Trips Req.	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date
2924	JLJ	28	30	8/8/2000	8/2/2001	8/1/2000	8/8/2000
3074	PICASSO	2	8	8/8/2001	8/1/2001	8/1/2000	8/8/2000
3075	PICASSO	234	238	8/8/2000	8/1/2000	8/1/2000	8/8/2000
3148	ARFARF	10798	11093	8/1/2000	8/1/2001	8/1/2000	8/1/2000
3164	CHIPMAKER	21171	21171	12/1/2000	12/1/2001	10/10/2000	10/12/2000
3210	CHIPMAKER	17158	17158	12/1/2000	12/1/2001	10/1/2000	11/12/2000

FIG. 15A

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<div> <div>File Edit Favorites Tools Help</div> <div> <div>BUYERS</div> <div>VISITORS</div> <div>SUPPLIERS</div> </div> </div>											
<div> <div>Welcome The Exchange Profile Brochures Contact Home Help Contact Us</div> <div>My Sales In Progress Search For Buyers Finalize RFP's Welcome, Buyer Company, Corp.</div> </div>											
Finalized RFP's 1526											
Status Key											
<input type="checkbox"/> Available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> Under Offer <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sold/Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Expired											
RFP	Buyer ID	Booking Country	City-Pair	Sold Trips	Initial Trips Req.	Flight Class	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date	
1590	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WEFLOR	Canada	LAX-sfo	170	500	Any Class	12/1/2000	12/2/2000	11/1/2000	11/2/2000	
3582	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHIPMAKER	USA	FDX-SFO	100	100	Coach	12/1/2000	12/15/2000	8/2/2000	8/15/2000	
3580	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	USA	PRG-SFO	150	200	First Class	8/28/2000	10/4/2000	8/7/2000	8/18/2000	
3472	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHIPMAKER	USA	BOS-JFK	10	100	Coach	12/1/2000	12/31/2000	8/28/2000	8/28/2000	
1653	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WEFLOR	Canada	LAX-SFO	18	200	Any Class	12/1/2002	12/2/2002	12/1/2000	12/3/2001	
2048	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUN	Canada	HYD-LAX	214	345	Any Class	8/8/2000	8/8/2001	8/1/2000	8/5/2000	
3570	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	USA	CDG-JNC	340	500	Business	10/7/2000	10/21/2000	8/30/2000	8/4/2000	
3583	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JULI	USA	LGA-FDX	50	50	Coach	12/1/2000	12/31/2000	8/4/2000	8/14/2000	
3588	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	USA	CDG-SFO	300	300	Coach	8/8/2000	8/8/2000	8/6/2000	8/8/2000	
3584	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	USA	CDG-PHL	38	38	Coach	10/1/2000	8/30/2001	8/11/2000	8/25/2000	
1705	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WEFLOR	Canada	lax-sfo	8	10	Any Class	12/1/2008	12/2/2008	11/1/2008	11/2/2008	
3608	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cisco	USA	LAX-SFO	50	100	First Class	8/25/2000	8/28/2000	8/13/2000	8/15/2000	
3609	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cisco	USA	JAH-ORD	26	52	First Class	8/25/2000	8/28/2000	8/14/2000	8/15/2000	
1528											
RFP	Buyer ID	Booking Country	City-Pair	Sold Trips	Initial Trips Req.	Flight Class	Travel Start Date	Travel End Date	RFP Start Date	RFP Exp. Date	
RFP's Sold to Other Supplier(s)											
1587	<input type="checkbox"/> LANSLITE	Canada	lax-sfo	100	100	Business	8/30/2000	10/20/2000	6/13/2000	6/15/2000	
1553	<input type="checkbox"/> PICASSO	USA	jfk-sfo	4	4	Any Class	8/15/2000	6/23/2000	6/14/2000	6/15/2000	
1585	<input type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	Canada	JRA-KBP	600	600	Any Class	6/28/2000	7/24/2000	6/22/2000	6/21/2000	
1504	<input type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	CANADA	BOM-DEL	100	100	Business	6/20/2000	10/20/2000	6/10/2000	6/11/2000	
1842	<input type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	Canada	FLU-LRP	600	600	Any Class	6/28/2000	6/30/2000	6/20/2000	6/21/2000	
1811	<input type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	India	LAX-SFO	50	100	Any Class	8/23/2000	8/30/2000	8/18/2000	8/20/2000	
1881	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFLOR	Canada	LAX-SFO	100	100	Any Class	8/25/2000	8/28/2000	8/13/2000	8/15/2000	
1822	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFLOR	Canada	LAX-SFO	26	52	Any Class	8/25/2000	8/28/2000	8/14/2000	8/15/2000	
Declined RFP's											
1472	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	Canada	IEV-KBP	600	600	Any Class	6/28/2000	6/30/2000	6/14/2000	6/15/2000	
1473	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	CANADA	PHI-SEA	100	100	FIRST CLASS	10/1/2000	12/1/2000	6/10/2000	7/26/2000	
1488	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUMFORDS	Canada	LAX-SFO	230	230	COACH	6/20/2000	6/20/2000	6/8/2000	6/10/2000	
1506	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	Canada	ban-del	100	100	Any Class	6/10/2000	6/10/2001	6/10/2000	6/10/2000	
1508	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPORTY	Canada	ban-del	100	100	Any Class	6/10/2000	6/10/2001	6/10/2000	6/10/2000	
1530											

FIG. 15B

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### DECLARATION OF NON-ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 17(2)(a), Rules 13ter.1(c) and Rule 39)


Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>07882984PCT</b>	<b>IMPORTANT DECLARATION</b>	Date of mailing(day/month/year) <b>11/12/2001</b>
International application No. <b>PCT/US 01/ 30699</b>	International filing date(day/month/year) <b>03/10/2001</b>	(Earliest) Priority date(day/month/year) <b>03/10/2000</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC <b>GO6F17/60</b>		
Applicant <b>ROSENBLUTH INTERNATIONAL, INC.</b>		

This International Searching Authority hereby declares, according to Article 17(2)(a), that no international search report will be established on the international application for the reasons indicated below

1. ☒ The subject matter of the international application relates to:
  - a. ☐ scientific theories.
  - b. ☐ mathematical theories
  - c. ☐ plant varieties.
  - d. ☐ animal varieties.
  - e. ☐ essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals, other than microbiological processes and the products of such processes.
  - f. ☒ schemes, rules or methods of doing business.
  - g. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of performing purely mental acts.
  - h. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of playing games.
  - i. ☐ methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy.
  - j. ☐ methods for treatment of the animal body by surgery or therapy.
  - k. ☐ diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body.
  - l. ☐ mere presentations of information.
  - m. ☐ computer programs for which this International Searching Authority is not equipped to search prior art.
  
2. ☐ The failure of the following parts of the international application to comply with prescribed requirements prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
 

☐ the description
☐ the claims
☐ the drawings
  
3. ☐ The failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
 

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
   
☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
  
4. Further comments:

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <b>Lucia Van Pinxteren</b>
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## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 203

The claims relate to subject matter for which no search is required according to Rule 39 PCT. Given that the claims are formulated in terms of such subject matter or merely specify commonplace features relating to its technological implementation, the search examiner could not establish any technical problem which might potentially have required an inventive step to overcome. Hence it was not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art (Art. 17(2)(a)(i) and (ii) PCT; see Guidelines Part B Chapter VIII, 1-6).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.